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RESPONSIBLE FISHERIES SUMMARY



Code of Conduct for Responsible
Fishing Operations
(1994 – 2003)
December 2003

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR RESPONSIBLE FISHING OPERATIONS 1994-2003

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Code ratification very challenging.
Because of the broad range of issues
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extensive consultations and other
activities for almost a decade. This
approach ensured wide acceptance
and applicability of the Code. The
main stages and major achievements
of the process are summarized in this
document.

The Canadian Code has 9 principles and 36 supporting guidelines.

The Code has already had
positive impacts and promises
to be a significant factor in
the lives of fish harvesters
and on the sustainability
of fish and shellfish stocks
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May 2003, ninety (90)
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over 80% of Canadian fish
harvesters had ratified the
Code and implementation
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This is a solid indication
that mainstream Canadian
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A new industry Code
governance body is now in
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its commitment to Code
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CANADIAN FISHERIES

RESPONSIBLE FISHERIES



Code of Conduct for Responsible
Fishing Operations
(1994 – 2003)
December 2003

CANADIAN CODE OF CONDUCT FOR RESPONSIBLE FISHING OPERATIONS 1994-2003

The initial vision and call for development of a Canadian Code came from fish harvesters - the very people involved in the day-to-day business of fishing. Having heavily invested time and/or money in their businesses, fish harvesters have much at stake and a high level of interest in safeguarding stocks through fishing practices that successfully sustain resource levels.

The development and ratification of a truly Canadian Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing Operations (the Code) has been a remarkable achievement. Both the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) and the Canadian fish harvesting industry recognized that strong collaboration was required to achieve the common goal of stock protection, and that a set of industry-agreed guidelines could provide a solid basis for working together effectively. In view of the protection of fish stocks, marine life and habitat the Code would offer, DFO committed to providing the Secretariat for Code development. Industry needed a mechanism

for working together and with governments to improve stock sustainability, while maintaining economically viable fishing operations, and recognized that the Code could provide the necessary direction.

Canada's size, extensive coastlines, freshwater lakes and diversity of commercial fisheries made the development of industry consensus and

Code ratification very challenging. Because of the broad range of issues involved, leading representatives from major fisheries worked on extensive consultations and other activities for almost a decade. This approach ensured wide acceptance and applicability of the Code. The main stages and major achievements of the process are summarized in this document.

The Canadian Code has 9 principles and 36 supporting guidelines.

The Code has already had positive impacts and promises to be a significant factor in the lives of fish harvesters and on the sustainability of fish and shellfish stocks in Canadian waters. By May 2003, ninety (90) organizations representing over 80% of Canadian fish harvesters had ratified the Code and implementation was already well underway. This is a solid indication that mainstream Canadian harvesting operations fully embrace the Code.

A new industry Code governance body is now in place. DFO, having fulfilled its commitment to Code development, will complete the transfer of Secretariat responsibilities to this new body during the 2003/4 fiscal year.



Fisheries and Oceans
Canada

Pêche et Océans
Canada

Canada

CANADIAN CODE ORIGINS AND CONTEXT

Since 1990, Canadian fisheries stakeholders were involved with the planning and development of an International Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries led by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations. Canada and 80 other nations endorsed the international Code adopted at the 28th session of the FAO conference in 1995. Because of the crisis in Canadian fisheries, for example the Northern Cod Moratorium (1992), Canadian harvesters were also keen to find ways to identify and resolve problems associated specifically with Canadian fishing operations. Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) and most domestic fish harvesters and their organizations already had a strong focus on selectivity research and conservation during harvesting.

During December 1994, a Groundfish Gear and Harvesting Technology Workshop was held in St. John's, Newfoundland. Fish harvesters from

across Canada were involved and the group unanimously recommended that a purely Canadian Code of Conduct be developed to take into account the particular issues and challenges faced by fish harvesters working in all Canadian waters (Atlantic, Pacific, Arctic and Freshwater).

A subsequent Industry Discussion paper (February 1995) developed by the Association des Pêcheurs Professionnels Acadiens proposing a Canadian Code of Conduct, was presented at the March 1995 Ministers Round Table on the Future of the Atlantic Fishery.

Representatives from the harvesting and processing sectors and provincial and federal governments who attended the round table achieved consensus that a Canadian Code of Conduct be developed to promote responsible fishing practices and DFO committed to providing Secretariat support. The Code development process would address issues identified at the December 1994 Gear Workshop and would provide a crucial first step towards building economically viable and sustainable Canadian fisheries.

At the same time the Deep Sea Trawlers Association of British Columbia, Baffin Region Hunters and Trappers Association, and



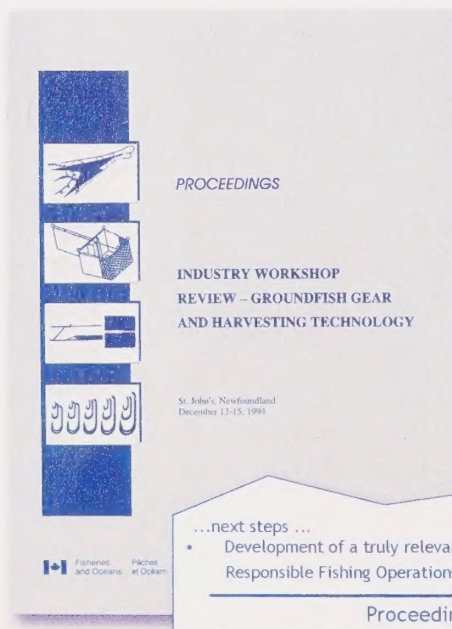
Departmental Responsible Fishing Merit Awards presentation 1995. Left to right: Pat Chamut, Assistant Deputy Minister, Fisheries Management, DFO; Doug March, Deep Sea Trawlers Association, B.C.; Alaire Gauvin, Association des Pêcheurs Professionnels Acadiens, N.B.; Rick Misner, Ontario Whitefish Producers Association, ON; and Andrew Duthie, Chief Responsible Fishing Operations, Fisheries Management, DFO.

Ontario Fish Producers Association indicated strong support for development of a Code.

A preliminary document setting out elements of a first Draft Code was prepared and subsequently endorsed at an informal meeting of representative stakeholders held in Montreal, July 1995.

As responsible fishing research progressed and support for Code development took shape, many individuals and organizations worked to bring about fundamental changes in attitudes and fishing practices. These contributions were recognized (as reported in the September 1995 Responsible Fisheries Summary on the Canadian Code) with a Departmental Merit Award to industry and Department representatives (see photo above).

From the beginning, DFO HQ and Regional staff have maintained contact with Code development to be prepared for the implementation stage. The Code also forms part of DFO training for new fishery officers.



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INDUSTRY CONSULTATIONS

Having achieved a broad industry consensus to proceed with Code development, a representative Industry Steering Group was established to lead the work and a DFO Secretariat set-up to support them. Prepared and adopted as a basis for industry consultations, an "Industry Steering Group Draft Code" was distributed to all fishing organizations representing the various gear types and fisheries sectors in all regions across Canada. A first draft process for developing, ratifying and implementing the Code was also distributed.

In December 1996, the first main industry consultation took place in British Columbia and a revised "Industry Consensus Draft Code" was adopted. Then the remaining cross-country industry consultations began. Draft documents were prepared for each region, and revised as required, sometimes several times. During January and February 1997 meetings were held with stakeholders from the Freshwater and Arctic (Toronto, ON), Newfoundland and Labrador (St. John's, NL), Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island (Halifax, NS), and New Brunswick and Quebec (Shippigan, NB) regions to review, discuss and suggest changes to the Industry Consensus Draft Code.

The resulting five sets of suggested changes were presented, debated and modified at the major National Code Industry Consultation Workshop held in Toronto, January 1998. The outcome was the "Consensus Code" which was endorsed by the group and has endured.

At this workshop a plan for governance and ratification was also agreed, a Canadian Responsible Fisheries (Code) Board was established to carry the work forward for a three-year period, and DFO was asked to continue providing Secretariat support.

During the regional consultations and in Toronto, industry input was taken very seriously. To take local needs into account, all meetings dealt with the content of each principle and guideline. Every local concern raised was given careful consideration making the industry consultation process intense, tedious, vigorous, and time consuming. Reconciling the various local concerns at each regional meeting was difficult. Amalgamating and reconciling all resulting input at the national level was an even greater challenge. Fortunately, all this very hard work paid off when national consensus was achieved.



National Code Industry Consultation Workshop Participants, Toronto, Ontario, January 1998

Schedule of Industry Consultations

Date	Location	Fisheries Region
3 Dec. 1996	Vancouver, B.C.	British Columbia
12 Jan. 1997	Toronto, Ont.	Freshwater and Arctic
19 Feb. 1997	St. John's, Nfld.	Newfoundland and Labrador
19 Feb. 1997	Halifax, N.S.	Nova Scotia and P.E.I.
24 Feb. 1997	Caraquet, N.B.	New Brunswick and Quebec

Evolution of Guideline #2.3 (1996 - Present)

Original #2.3 (from Industry Consensus Draft Code 1996) Adopt and use non-destructive, selective fishing gear, methods and practices to reduce by-catch of non-target species and juveniles and to reduce impacts to the aquatic environment.

Recommendations for changes resulting from regional industry consultations

PACIFIC	Promote and adopt [and use non destructive,} selective fishing gears, methods and practices to reduce [by} catch of non-target species {and juveniles} and to reduce impacts to the aquatic environment.
FRESHWATER	{Adopt and} use non-destructive, selective fishing gear, methods, and practices to reduce by-catch of non-target species and year classes {juveniles} and to reduce impacts to the aquatic environment.
ARCTIC	Adopt and use {non-destructive,} selective fishing gears, methods and practices to reduce by-catch of non-target species and juveniles and to reduce impacts to the aquatic environment.
ATLANTIC (Newfoundland and Labrador)	Continue to {Adopt and} use non-destructive, selective fishing gear, methods and practices to reduce by-catch of non-target resources {species and juveniles} and to reduce impacts to the aquatic environment.
ATLANTIC (Quebec and New Brunswick)	Adopt and use environmentally friendly, {non-destructive} selective fishing gears, methods and practices {to reduce by-catch of non-target species and juveniles and to reduce impacts to the aquatic environment}.

Suggested revised guideline #2.3 (1998)

Adopt and promote the use of selective fishing gear, methods and practices to reduce by-catch of non-target species and year classes and to reduce impacts to the aquatic environment.

Approved guideline #2.3 (1998 - Present)

Ensure fishing activities are not conducted in a fashion that would endanger fish stocks or the environment.

CANADIAN CODE OF CONDUCT FOR RESPONSIBLE FISHING OPERATIONS (CONSENSUS CODE) - RATIONALE AND CONTENTS

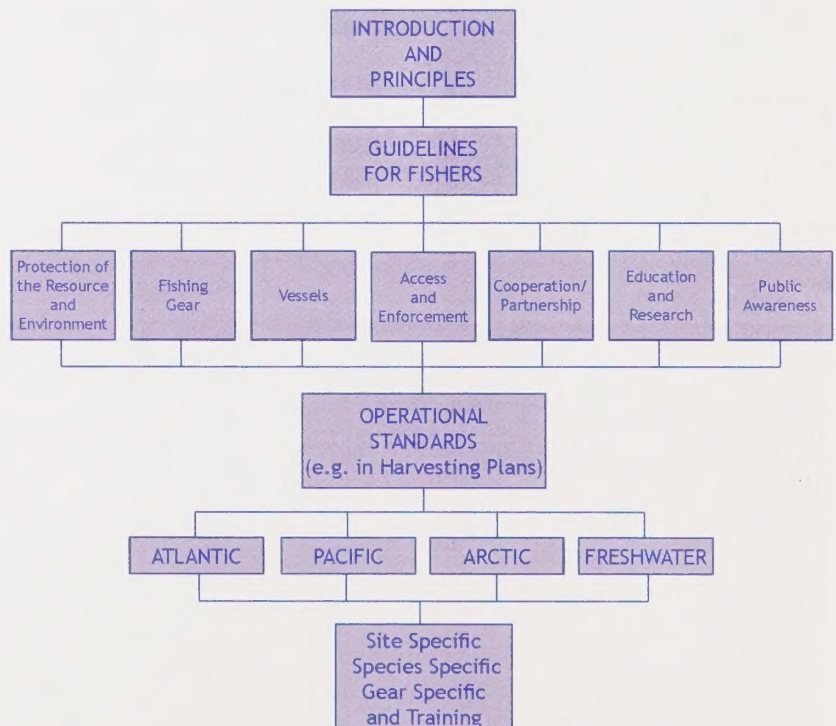
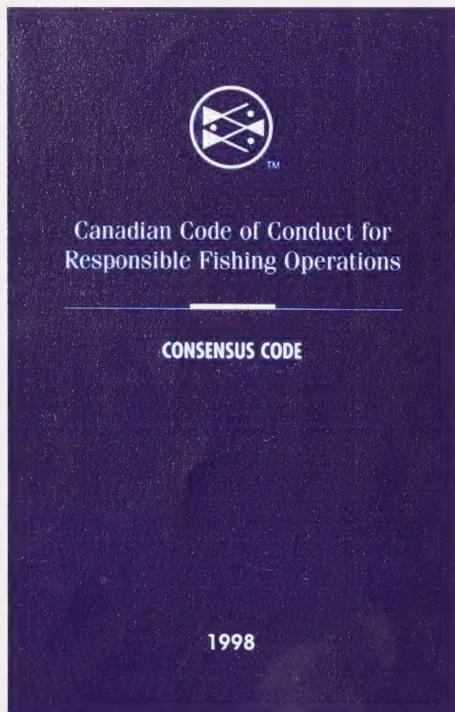
The Canadian fishing industry and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans are committed to achieving sustainable marine and freshwater fisheries. The Code was and is seen as an essential step in pursuit of this objective. It is believed that implementation of the Code will contribute directly to the conservation of stocks and the protection of the aquatic environment for present and future generations of Canadians.

The Code has at its core a philosophy of responsible fishing. It outlines general principles and practical guidelines and is based on the following fundamental points of agreement:

- I The Code applies to all commercial fishing operations in Canadian waters.
- II There are four distinct fishing regions in Canada (Atlantic, Pacific, Arctic and Freshwater) each requiring specific mechanisms and regulations.
- III Nothing in the Code serves to justify or impose any allocation or sharing of Freshwater or Marine resources.
- IV Conservation Harvesting Plans or Fisheries Management Plans should incorporate the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing Operations.

The Canadian Code consists of nine principles and 36 accompanying guidelines (summarized at right) covering seven specific areas, namely: protection of the resource and environment, fishing gear, vessels, access and enforcement, cooperation and partnership, education and research, and public awareness.

Example of Practical Application of a Code Guideline - Code guideline #2.3 calls for ensuring that fishing conducted does not endanger stocks or the environment. In a conservation harvesting plan for shrimp, this could be addressed by specifying the fishing gear and gear rigging to be used. Details could include, for example, the minimum length of the toggle chains (connecting the groundrope and the fishing line) and/or the use of separator grid(s) with particular bar spacings.



Relationship between Code Principles, supporting Guidelines and their implementation through Operational Standards.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF CONSENSUS CODE PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES

PRINCIPLE 1 deals with fish harvesters' commitment to sustainability of fisheries resources and habitats. The practical **GUIDELINES** suggest ways to achieve this goal including: application of sustainable fishing principles to all fisheries harvesting and management; environmentally sound waste management; optimized energy use; and the following of national emissions standards.

PRINCIPLE 2 addresses the importance of balancing economic viability of fisheries with ecological sustainability. The practical **GUIDELINES** focus on protocols for selective fishing and avoidance of non-target resources; use of authorized gear and its safe application; special care in adoption of new gear; participation in research and avoidance of gear loss through implementing protocols for marking, retrieving and reporting of gear loss.

PRINCIPLE 3 acknowledges that sustainability and conservation is a shared responsibility and requires cooperation between industry and regulatory authorities. The practical **GUIDELINES** deal with vessel maintenance and operation, marking vessels and gear, avoiding interference with fishing operations by other vessels, and maintaining catch quality.

PRINCIPLE 4 deals with fish harvesters adopting specific mechanisms and regulations as required to address problems of fisheries in Canada. The practical **GUIDELINE** specifies consultation between relevant

regulatory agencies and industry groups and mechanisms to monitor and evaluate adherence to sustainable principles and practices

PRINCIPLE 5 deals with balancing fishing effort with resources. Supporting practical **GUIDELINES** cover recognition of the interdependence of harvesting

operations and fisheries management; the need for cooperation and partnership among fish harvesters and between them and people involved in fisheries operations, management science and technology, optimization of energy use and solving jurisdictional problems.

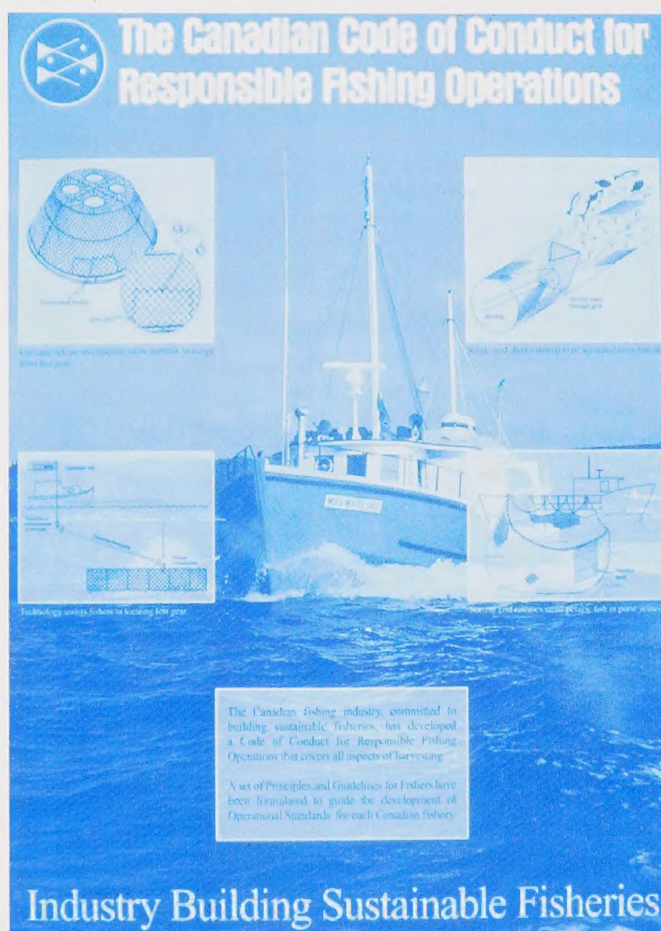
PRINCIPLE 6 recognizes the need to minimize unintended by catch and any adverse impacts on aquatic ecosystems and habitats. Practical **GUIDELINES** for this principle deal with fish harvesters participation in related research initiatives; the provision of useful research and assessment data; and involvement in practical education and training initiatives designed to transfer relevant technological developments across fleet sectors and/or the industry as appropriate.

PRINCIPLE 7 deals with the need for greater public understanding of measures being taken by fish harvesters

to conserve stocks and protect the environment.

PRINCIPLE 8 focuses on recognition of the specialized knowledge of fish harvesters and integration in fisheries management and regulation.

PRINCIPLE 9 requires fish harvesters to abide by national and international laws and other regulations and harvesting plans adopted for each fishery.



Canadian Responsible Fisheries Board (1998-2001)

Arctic (1 member)
Marc Allard
 Seaku Fisheries/Northern Fisheries Coalition
 Kuujuaq/Montreal, Quebec

Freshwater (2 members)
Robert T. Krisjanson
 Lake Winnipeg, Whitefish Fleet
 Gimli, Manitoba

Rick Misner - Board Chair
 Ontario Commercial Fisheries Association
 Port Dover, Ontario

Aboriginal Commercial Fish Harvesters (1 member)
Christine Hunt
 Native Brotherhood of BC
 Victoria, British Columbia

Pacific Coast (3 members)
Ron Fowler
 Pacific Trollers Association
 Vancouver, British Columbia

Bob Rezanoff
 Fishing Vessel Owner's Association of BC
 Vancouver, British Columbia

John Sutcliffe
 United Fishermen & Allied Workers Union of BC
 Vancouver, British Columbia

Atlantic Coast (6 members)
Bill Broderick
 Fish, Food & Allied Workers Union
 St. John's, Newfoundland

Jeff Brownstein
 Maritime Fisherman's Union
 Baddeck, Nova Scotia

Brian Giroux
 Scotia-Fundy Mobile Gear Association
 Yarmouth, Nova Scotia

Gabrielle Landry
 Federation des Pêcheurs Semi-Hauturier
 Cap-aux-Meules, Quebec

Patrick McGuinness
 Fisheries Council of Canada
 Nepean, Ontario

Rory McLellan
 PEI Fishermen's Association
 Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island

RATIFICATION OF THE CANADIAN CODE

Having achieved consensus in 1998, the next challenge was Code ratification. To accomplish this in the time allotted (3 years), the Code Board undertook widest possible distribution of three items: the Consensus Code, an outline of the ratification process, and the ratification document to be signed and submitted. During this process over 30,000 copies of the Consensus Code were printed. Many were sent directly to individual fish harvesters (over 14,000 in Newfoundland and Labrador alone).

In addition, Board members made a number of presentations to industry groups including Fisheries Council of Canada and the Canadian Council of Professional Fish Harvesters. BC Board members made presentations to their Fishing Vessel Owners, Area G Gill-Netters, and Beam Trawler's Associations.

Other supporting activities were also undertaken including:

- Establishment of the Romeo LeBlanc Responsible Fishing

Medal and Awards to be presented to fish harvesters from the Atlantic, Pacific, Freshwater, and Arctic, selected through a formal impartial process with rigorous minimum standards, who exemplify the goals of responsible fishing.

- Presentation to the Senate Standing Committee on Fisheries and the Council of First Ministers.
- Publication and wide industry distribution of "Fishing Code News" and posters giving information about the Code and its practical application.
- Promotion of responsible fishing training at all levels, including a curriculum to fisheries colleges across Canada as well as information to elementary and high schools.
- First steps in establishing an industry Code governance body.
- Launch of a Code website (www.responsiblefisheries.com) containing information on the Code, a list of ratifying organizations, Board minutes, and Romeo LeBlanc award and medal winners.



Code Board (1998-2001). Clockwise from top left: Bill Broderick, Rory McLellan, Rick Misner, Robert T. Krisjanson, Ron Fowler, Marc Allard, Patrick McGuinness, John Sutcliffe, Melanie Sonnenberg replacing Jeff Brownstein, Brian Giroux, Gabrielle Landry, Christine Hunt, and Bob Rezanoff.



To support activities undertaken by the Code Board and Secretariat during this period, DFO separately included information on the Canadian Code in all its responsible fisheries displays at local, national, and international exhibitions, workshops and conferences. Wherever possible, individual fish harvesters - participating in selectivity and resource/energy conservation projects demonstrating practical application of the Code - were present at the displays to meet and talk with other fish harvesters and help them to understand better the intent, practical application and benefits of the Code.

During this time, the Code Board and DFO Secretariat received the "International Margarita Lizarraga Medal - Responsible Fisheries" from the FAO for work accomplished on the Canadian Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing Operations.

At the end of this ratification period, organizations representing over 80% of fish harvested in Canada had ratified the Consensus Code. As its final duty, the Board requested the Secretariat to schedule a national meeting (January 2002) of ratifying organizations to focus on Code implementation, complete the ratification process, decide on a future

Canadian Fisheries Organizations that have Ratified the Consensus Code as of May 2003

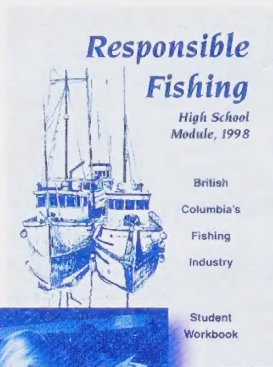
Area D Gillnetters Assoc., Quathias Cove, BC	Fédération des pêcheurs semi-hauturiers du Québec, Iles-de-la-Madeleine, QC
Area E Gillnetters Assoc., Vancouver, BC	Makivik Corporation, Ville St. Laurent, QC
BC Beam Trawlers' Assoc., Nanaimo, BC	Nunavik Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Assoc., Kuujuaq, QC
BC Seafood Alliance, Vancouver, B.C.	Regroupement des pêcheurs professionnels des Iles, Iles-de-la-Madeleine, QC
Canadian Groundfish Research and Conservation Society, Surrey, BC	Unaaq Fisheries Ltd., St. Laurent, QC
Canadian Sablefish Assoc., Surrey, BC	Assoc. des crevettiers Acadiens du Gulf, Shippagan, NB
Deep Sea Trawlers Assoc., Richmond, BC	Assoc. des senneurs du Golf Ltee., Caraquet, NB
Fishing Vessel Owners Assoc. of BC, Vancouver, BC	Assoc. des Crabiers Acadiens, Shippagan, NB
Gillnetters Assoc., Richmond, BC	Assoc. des pêcheurs de poisson de fond acadiens, Lamèque, NB
Gulf Troll Area H Assoc., Courtenay, BC	Assoc. des pêcheurs professionnels membres d'équipage inc. (APPM), Shippagan, NB
Krill Trawlers Assoc. and A.L.H. Enterprises LTD, Richmond, BC	Assoc. seigneurs du Golfe inc., Shippagan, NB
Northern Trollers Assoc., Vancouver, BC	Eastern Fishermen's Federation, Grand Manan, NB
Pacific Coast Shrimpers' Cooperative Assoc., Victoria, BC	Fédération régionale acadienne des pêcheurs professionnels inc. (FRAPP), Shippagan, NB
Pacific Halibut Management Assoc. of British Columbia, Burnaby, BC	Fundy Weir Fishermen's Assoc., St. George, NB
Pacific Trollers' Assoc., Victoria, BC	Grand Manan Fishermen's Assoc., Grand Manan, NB
Pacific Urchin Harvesters Assoc., Whistler, BC	The New Brunswick Seafood Processors Assoc., Moncton, NB
Spawn on Kelp Operators Assoc. (SOKOA), Richmond, BC	Atlantic Herring Co-op., Yarmouth, NS
Underwater Harvesters Assoc., Vancouver, BC	Canadian Assoc. of Prawn Producers, St. Margaret's Bay, NS
Alberta Commercial Fishermen's Assoc. Zone A, Lomond and Taber, AB	Eastern Shore Fishermen's Protective Assoc., Sheet Harbour, NS
Alberta Commercial Fishermen's Assoc. Zone B, Alder Flats and Edmonton, AB	Full Bay Scallop Assoc., Yarmouth, NS
Alberta Commercial Fishermen's Assoc. Zone C, Cold Lake, AB	Guysborough County Inshore Fishermen's Assoc., Canso, NS
Alberta Commercial Fishermen's Assoc. Zone D, Lac La Biche, AB	Halifax West Commercial Fisherman's Assoc., Sambro, NS
Alberta Commercial Fishermen's Assoc. Zone E, Jossard and Widewater, AB	North of Smokey Fishermen's Assoc., Igonish, NS
Alberta Commercial Fishermen's Assoc. Zone F, Jossard, AB	Northumberland Fishermen's Assoc., Pictou Co., NS
Alberta Commercial Fishermen's Assoc. Zone G, High Level and Zama, AB	Offshore Scallop Fleet, Dartmouth, NS
Alberta Commercial Fishermen's Assoc. Zone H, Fort Chipewyan, AB	Prospect Area Full Time Fishermens Assoc., Tantallon, NS
Alberta Commercial Fishermen's Assoc., Lac La Biche, AB	Scotia-Fundy Mobile Gear Assoc., Yarmouth, NS
Western Walleye Council, Millet, AB	Seafood Producers Assoc. of Nova Scotia, Dartmouth, NS
Baffin Fisheries Council, Iqaluit, NT	Shelburne Co. Fixed Gear Quota Group Less than 45, Shelburne, NS
Mittimatalik Hunters and Trappers Organization, Pond Inlet, NT	Shelburne County Competitive Fishers Assoc., Lockeport, NS
Nativak Hunters' and Trappers' Assoc., Broughton Island, NT	PEI Fishermen's Assoc., Charlottetown, PE
Qikiqtarjuaq Diving Group, Qikiqtarjuaq, NU	PEI Groundfish Assoc., Souris, PE
Qikiqtaaluk Corporation, Iqaluit, NU	PEI Snow Crab Fishermen's Assoc., Tignish, PE
Freshwater Fish Marketing Cooperation, Winnipeg, MB	Seafood Processors Assoc. of PEI, Charlottetown, PE
Lake Winnipeg White Fish Fleet, Gimli, MB	Western Gulf Fishermen's Assoc., Alberton, PE
Eastern Lake Erie Fishermen's Assoc., Port Colborne, ON	Fisheries Limited Labrador Fishermen's Union Shrimp Company, Lanse au loup, NL
Fish and Seafood Assoc. of Ontario, Woodbridge, ON	Fogo Island Co-operative Society Ltd., Seldom, NL
Fisheries Council of Canada, Nepean, ON	Labrador Inuit Assoc., Nain, NL
Groundfish Enterprise Allocation Council, Manotick, ON	Labrador Inuit Development Assoc., Nain, NL
Ontario Commercial Fisheries' Assoc., Blenheim, ON	Newfoundland & Labrador Fish Harvesters Fleet (150 Pot) Assoc. (Area 3L), St. John's, NL
Assoc. des pêcheurs de la Côte-Nord, Sept-Iles, QC	Newfoundland & Labrador Fish Harvesters Fleet (150 Pot) Assoc. (Area 3Ps), St. John's, NL
Assoc. des pêcheurs de la MRC de Pabok, Newport, QC	Newfoundland Fish, Food and Allied Workers Union, St. John's, NL
Assoc. des capitaines propriétaires de la Gaspésie, Rivière au renard, QC	Petty Harbour Fishermen's Producer Cooperative Society Ltd., Petty Harbour, NL
Assoc. des crabiers gaspésiens, Grande Rivière, QC	The Northern Coalition, St. John's, NL
Brilliant Cove Fishermen's Assoc., Fontenelle, QC	Torgat Fish Producers Coop Society Ltd., Happy Valley, NL

PUBLIC AWARENESS AND RECOGNITION

For many years prior to Code ratification, considerable work by DFO and industry had been ongoing towards building and maintaining responsible fisheries in Canada. However, the public's appreciation of commercial fishing had been strongly colored by highly selected graphic representation of past and uncharacteristically destructive behavior of a few fishers. Mostly, such claims were unsubstantiated and grossly exaggerated. In contrast, the Canadian Code requires fishers and their industry to demonstrate, with reference to specific practices, the truth of how fisheries are harvested responsibly.

Formalizing even the considerable existing responsible fishing practices goes a long way to showing that Canadian-based fishing operations are some of the most "environmentally friendly" in the world. In addition, the Code has strong potential as a basis for development of a truly Canadian "eco-label" for use on fish and shellfish products. The

Canadian Code also complements the International Code of Conduct and the wider responsible fishing work carried out by DFO and other stakeholders.



High School module developed and delivered in B.C.

In order to raise awareness of existing responsible fishing practices and the role of the Code in elaborating and building on these practices, a number of approaches were undertaken by the Code Board and DFO Secretariat. These include:

- Public acknowledgement of individual harvesters through the Romeo LeBlanc National Awards
- Adult and high school responsible fishing educational programs (provincial and international)
- Trade show delegations, demonstrations and displays
- Conference exhibits and presentations at the regional (incl. First Nations), national and international levels.

All of these activities were supported by posters, project summaries, newsletters, and presentations with full and active participation by fishers.



Romeo LeBlanc medal and awards laureates (medal winner) at the 2000 presentation (l-r) George Feltham, Atlantic Laureate and medal winner; Davidee Evic, Arctic Laureate; Robert T Krisjansen, Freshwater Laureate; and Les Rombough, Pacific Laureate.

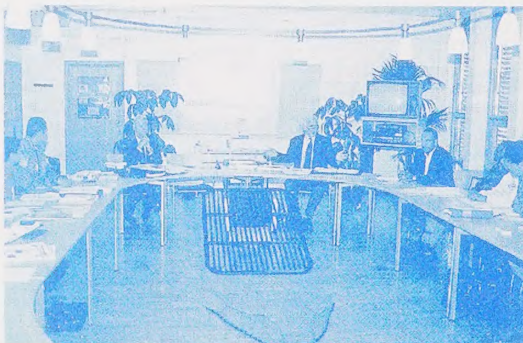


Code awareness strategy continues - 2001. Romeo LeBlanc medal and awards ceremony (l-r) Stan Logan, Pacific Laureate; Pierrot Hache, Atlantic Laureate and medal winner; Stevie Audlakiak, Arctic Laureate; and George Purvis, Freshwater Laureate.



Responsible Fishing Program developed with experienced skippers for delivery in New Brunswick.

Annual responsible fishing lectures, including the Canadian Code, at the World Maritime University, Sweden.



Gabrielle Landry and Marc Allard of the industry's Canadian Responsible Fisheries Board promote conservation harvesting and the Code of Conduct at the October 1999 Quebec fishing industry and aquaculture conference.

Canadian Responsible Fisheries Board (2002)**Arctic (1 member)**

Johnny Arnaituk Jr.
Nunavik Hunting, Fishing and
Trapping Association
Kuujuaq, Quebec

Freshwater (2 members)

Robert T. Krisjanson
Lake Winnipeg, Whitefish Fleet
Gimli, Manitoba

Rick Misner

Ontario Commercial Fisheries
Association
Port Dover, Ontario

Aboriginal Commercial Fish Harvesters (1 member)

Marc Allard
Seaku Fisheries/Northern Fisheries
Coalition
Kuujuaq/Montreal, Quebec

Pacific Coast (4 members)

Michelle James
Underwater Harvesters Association
Vancouver, British Columbia

Gina Johansen

Spawn on Kelp Operators Association
Richmond, British Columbia

Stuart Nelson

Deep Sea Trawlers Association of BC
Richmond, BC

Bob Rezansoff

Fishing Vessel Owner's Association
of BC
Vancouver, British Columbia

Atlantic Coast (7 members)

Craig Avery
Western Gulf Fishermen's Association
Alberton, Prince Edward Island

Bill Broderick

Fish, Food & Allied Workers Union
St. John's, Newfoundland

Gary Dedrick

Shelburne Country Quota Group
Shelburne, Nova Scotia

Gabrielle Landry

Federation des Pêcheurs Semi-
Hauturier
Cap-aux-Meules, Quebec

Patrick McGuinness

Fisheries Council of Canada
Nepean, Ontario

Jean Saint-Cyr

Federation regionale acadienne des
pecheurs professionnels inc. (FRAPP)
Shippagan, New Brunswick

Melanie Sonnenberg

Eastern Fisherman's Federation
Grand Manan, New Brunswick

CODE IMPLEMENTATION

Up to this time ratification had been the primary focus of Boards activity; however, three pilot projects concerning implementation of the Code had also been conducted and results were presented at a second National Workshop held in Toronto, January 18-19, 2002. One of the three pilot projects was undertaken by two B.C. organizations (Groundfish Conservation Society and Deep Sea Trawlers Association) that had ratified the code early. Their projects involved a process to identify how members of these organizations had implemented the code. Success had been achieved with 100% observer coverage (Principles 1, 2, 4 and 9) and partnership with DFO in research and management initiatives, e.g., ground closures to protect Pacific Cod and Ocean Perch (Principle 8).

Another pilot project undertaken by the Scotia-Fundy Mobile Gear Association (SFMGA) was able to identify applications of the Code, covering all of the principles and the methodology used by their fisheries managers in identifying areas for further work. A major emphasis is on effective communications with fisheries managers and suggestions for co-management. The result of their Code implementation work was posted on the internet for third-party scrutiny. While not constituting a formal audit, the process provides a model for self-verification of Code application.

The third pilot was carried out by the Groundfish Enterprise Allocation Council and involved testing of a self-verification protocol for both harvesters and associations. The tool, a first step in developing compliance methodology seemed to provide a good, cost-effective



Some members of the 15-member Code Board (clockwise from top left of photo) Jean Saint-Cyr, Rick Misner (Chair), Stuart Nelson, Craig Avery, Marc Allard, Patrick McGuinness, Michelle James, Melanie Sonnenberg, and Robert T. Krisjanson (See panel at left for complete Board)

alternative to third-party audit and is available to ratified members.

At this workshop, a new Code Board, expanded to 15 members, was also chosen by ratified members. This change ensured that the new Board was representative of these organizations. In addition to continuing with ratification, the new Board was asked to focus strongly on Code implementation work through additional projects; catalogue potential Code self-verification models; take legal ownership of the Code's registered trademark for possible future use as an eco-label; develop a legal option for incorporation together with a governance structure; and develop a long-term strategy for funding.

The new Board, taking into account the outcomes of the pilot project, recognized the importance of the Code as a compliance tool to show fish harvesters' support for responsible fishing. It was now well recognized by all stakeholders that Code operational guidelines were directly applicable in the development of Conservation Harvesting Plans (CHP). The broader Integrated Fisheries Management Plans (IFMP) also involve a responsible fishing component.

To move Code implementation forward during 2002, the new Board, ratifying organizations and DFO, undertook 15 projects designed to:

- Develop the process for incorporating the Code into fisheries management plan and provide industry-agreed suggestions for the improvement of fisheries management.
- Review current harvesting practices in 15 representative fisheries to determine the general level of compliance with Code principles and guidelines, and develop ways of addressing any outstanding issue.

Fifteen Code implementation projects were carried out in the five regions. Results of these projects were presented at a Code Board meeting in December 2002 and are summarized below. It was shown that across the country strong evidence of sound fishing practices had emerged and the ratified code really provided a tool for formalizing and fine-tuning day-to-day operations.

B.C. Herring Roe Project

B.C. Seine Roe Herring Association members identified applicability of Code guidelines to their fishery and have prepared a record of their experience to date. Following consultation with members, a set of recommendations for future implementation have been produced.

B.C. Spawn on Kelp Project

Spawn-on-Kelp Operators Association used a self-assessment document with the focus on importance of co-management for effective Code implementation. Long-term management recommendations are in preparation.

B.C. Integrated Groundfish Project

Improved selectivity and catch utilization in B.C. Groundfish fisheries for species-specific licenses in multispecies fishing locations.

B.C. Geoduck and Horse Clam Project

B.C. Geoduck and Horse Clam Harvesters Association published Code implementation self-assessment documents (compliance)-www.geoduck.org

Lake Ontario Whitefish Project

The Ontario Fisheries Association Code implementation plans involve a widely applicable template with a focus on cooperation and support among freshwater fisheries and their government's scientists and managers.

Lake Winnipeg Whitefish Project

Through Code application, the Lake Winnipeg Whitefish Fleet is strengthening its already considerable involvement in research disciplines, for example, fisheries habitat and seasonal /area closers to protect spawning. The fleet's commitment to responsible fishing practices includes an advocacy role supporting Code adoption.

Lobster Fishing Area 24 Project

The Western Gulf Lobster Fishermen's Association (Area 24) - drew up an implementation plan that dealt with every one of the Code guidelines. Through negotiation with government departments, the Code is being incorporated in their Conservation Harvesting Plan. The Association has also lobbied all other PEI lobster fishermen to adopt the Code implementation plan and, where necessary, complete Code ratification.

Lobster Fishing Area 38 Project

The Lobster Fisherman's Association for Area 38 represents 136 licenses that share a disputed area (gray zone) with the United States. Despite the complications, the Association reviewed and outlined steps for compliance with the Code and is promoting responsible fishing based on Code principles and guidelines. The goal is to include the Code in the LFA 38 management regime.

Groundfish Enterprise Allocation Council Project

The Fisheries Council of Canada and the Groundfish Enterprise Allocation Council's Code implementation model to document how all guidelines were addressed by industry and adopted/adapted in each fishery. The links between conservation harvesting plans and the Code guidelines have been identified and audit tools listed. The latter include energy efficiency, vessel safety, training, and public awareness.

Northern and Gulf Shrimp (3) Projects

Documented Code implementation plans for the off-shore (Canadian Association of Prawn Producers and Northern

Coalition) and mid-shore (Group B Gulf shrimp fleet) are based on the earlier pilot work. Implementation was greatly facilitated building on the successful record of by-catch reduction in this fishery to less than 2% through the use of selectivity grids. These fisheries have included Code elements into their conservation harvesting plans and the offshore group has developed a compliance self-audit tool. Emphasis now is on including the implementation plan in the Integrated Fisheries Management Plans reflecting industry investments and cooperation in managing the stocks for the benefit of all stakeholders.

Scotia-Fundy Offshore Scallop Project

The Code Implementation Plan developed for scallop addresses all the principles and guidelines in the Code with emphasis on areas vital in this fishery. Specifically these include close monitoring of the stock, habitat-impact, nursery/protected habitat. Annexes focus on how guidelines are applied to practical situations, integration of Code into CHP's and a self-assessment process. Work with Fisheries and Oceans continues to include these developments in the scallop (IFMP)

Scotia-Fundy Fixed Gear Groundfish Project

The Shelburne County Quota Group is pro-active in biologically sustainable and economically viable fisheries for its members. The group collaborated with fish harvester's organizations like the Eastern Fishermen's Federation to develop a mechanism for Code implementation. Meetings and surveys have determined key elements of the Code to be being applied and focuses on co-management between members and DFO to improve the advisory process. The next step is to be integration, how the Code must be referenced in the <45' Groundfish Management Plan.

NAFO Zone (4RS3Pn) Cod Project

Cod stock recovery remains a key management issue. Implementation of the Code and related documentation has been based on industry meetings to review industry initiatives currently in place, including: fishery spread out over space and time; competitive (weekly cap) versus I.O.; and 100% dockside monitoring and 10% observer coverage. The meetings also addressed new initiatives consistent with Code objectives, namely: exclusive spawning closure; exclusive hook and line fishery; by-catch reduction in American place fishery; and juvenile cod closure area. The resulting Code implementation plan documents how the Code guidelines are addressed. In each fishery, additional steps needed, covered in the plan will also be taken into account through collaborations with DFO in the discussing and initializing the overall fisheries management plans.

The 15 projects summarized above represent a first step in the Code implementation process. These and other fisheries organizations are well into Code implementation but there are other groups that will need encouragement and support to get started.

In parallel with implementation projects, public awareness and recognition activities continued...



2002 Romeo LeBlanc medal and awards ceremony (l-r) Honorable Robert Thibault, Minister of Fisheries; Jake Fraser, Pacific Laureate and medal winner; and Honorable Romeo LeBlanc, former Governor General missing from photo; Allen Gordon, Arctic Laureate; Milford Purdy, Freshwater Laureate; and Gary McLeod, Atlantic Laureate.



2003 Romeo LeBlanc medal and awards ceremony (l-r) John Carriere, Freshwater Laureate; Ulf Snarby, Atlantic Laureate and medal winner; and Tim Richards, Pacific Laureate

CODE BENEFITS, GOVERNANCE AND THE TASKS AHEAD

Current Status

From 1995 to the end of 2003, a great deal of time, effort and resources have been invested by individual fishermen, fisheries organizations, and DFO to achieve, ratify and begin implementing a Canadian Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing Operations. The pay-off in terms of Code benefits have started to come as implementation moves forward.

Code implementation requires industry members to be proactive regarding fisheries management and research in partnership with DFO. Having supported Code development, DFO has confirmed a willingness to bring industry's contributions to bear in managing and protecting future fisheries consistent with conservation harvesting plans, integrated fisheries management plans and other co-management vehicles.

Benefits

1. Including the Code in Conservation Harvesting Plans makes them more comprehensive, practical and effective, and satisfies all stakeholders. The Code helps fish harvesters and other stakeholders understand what is required to make a fishery both sustainable and economically viable. It also provides a basis for fish harvesters to plan, develop, verify and implement successful and responsible fishing operations.
2. The Code provides a basis for alternative (out of court) dispute resolution mechanisms. Increased awareness of the importance of conservation harvesting and issues surrounding sustainable fisheries amongst fish harvesters contributes to cooperation and prevention of misunderstandings and potential conflicts before they arise.
3. The Code requires fish harvesters to be involved in selectivity, conservation harvesting, and fuel/energy optimization research and education. This results in fishers with an enhanced capability for effective participation in fisheries co-management.
4. Selectivity, handling and other requirements included in the Code have a direct impact on quality of fish and shellfish landed. These are critical components in overall quality of the final seafood products.
5. Dealing specifically with harvesting and resource conservation objectives, the Code has potential as a truly Canadian mechanism for eco-labeling of seafood products. Code requirements for formalizing responsible fishing practices, many already in place, provide a solid basis for public recognition of existing "green" operations and begin to link with modern-day demands for "ecologically responsible" food products.

Governance

In order to continue to realize these and other benefits, Code governance - through an interm not-for-profit federation - is moving to a corporation with charitable status recognized by Revenue Canada. A step in this direction is the transfer, currently underway, of the Secretariat from DFO to the new industry Code governance body.

Full members of the new body are fish harvesters' organizations that have ratified the Code. Limited memberships will be available to umbrella fisheries organizations endorsing the Code and other groups, subject to Board approval. Board representation will follow the present formula (as set out on page 9). Funding is planned to be from a variety of sources including: membership fees, endowments, sponsorships, grants, and other sources.

Tasks Ahead

Objectives aimed at maintaining and building on the excellent work to date were already approved for the new industry organization at the December 2002 board meeting. These continue to be pursued including:

- Encourage the implementation of the Code directly in fishing and through Fisheries Management Plans, reflecting co-management and the full participation of Canadian fish harvesters in responsible fisheries management.
- Seek Code ratification by remaining Canadian fish harvesters' organizations that have not yet ratified.
- Undertake responsible-fishing related (environmental, scientific, technological development, and public awareness/educational) industry projects, particularly through initiatives such as the Romeo LeBlanc Awards.
- Promote, nationally and internationally, the role of Canadian fish harvesters in the management of sustainable fisheries, and the recognition of Canadian fish products harvested in accordance with the Code.

